

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara et al. Examiner: Ana M. Fortuna
Serial No.: 09/909,488 Group Art Unit: 1723
Filed: July 20, 2001 Docket: 12897.10US01
Due Date: August 20, 2004
Title: NANOFILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING APPARATUS AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 19, 2004.

By: Cyndee Krenos
Name: Cyndee Krenos

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Response
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: Daniel M. Pauly
Name: Daniel M. Pauly
Reg. No.: 40,123
DMP:ck

S/N 09/909,488



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara et al. Examiner: Ana M. Fortuna
Serial No.: 09/909,488 Group Art Unit: 1723
Filed: July 20, 2001 Docket No.: 12897.10US01
Title: NANOFILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING APPARATUS AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 19, 2004.

By: *Syndee Krenos*

Name: Syndee Krenos

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2004, Applicants provide the following remarks for consideration.

Remarks

Claims 1-40 were rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Bryce Richards et al., which appears to have been published no earlier than February 13, 2002 (and probably in July 2002 or later). Whereas the present application has a filing date of July 20, 2001, Applicants respectfully assert that they believe Richards is not prior art to the pending claims.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under Section 102(a) as being anticipated by Manttari et al., which appears to have been published no earlier than February 7, 2002 (and probably in July